

MEMORANDUM FOR 436 CES/CEV

FROM: 436 MSG/CC

SUBJECT: Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) - Repair of firing range facility

1. Dover AFB is proposing to renovate the firing range facility. The facility consists of approximately 11,000 square feet.
2. An environmental assessment, which is attached, was drafted and demonstrates that there are no significant environmental impacts from the proposed action. An environmental assessment was available for public review and comment from 23 May through 05 June 2004. No comments were received.
3. This document was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations of 1978, and Air Force Instruction (AFI) 32-7061, *The Environmental Impact Analysis Process*. AFI 32-7061 addresses implementation of the NEPA and directs Air Force officials to consider the environmental consequences of any proposal as part of the decision-making process. This instruction has been recently amended and appears, as amended, in 32 CFR Part 989. It was determined that neither an environmental impact statement nor a formal environmental assessment is necessary. No further environmental documentation is necessary.
4. I have evaluated the attached environmental assessment and find no significant impacts on the quality of the human or natural environment from the proposed action.



ROBERT J. KING, Colonel, USAF
Commander, 436th Mission Support Group

Attachments:

1. AF Form 813
2. Environmental Assessment

Report Documentation Page				Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188	
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1. REPORT DATE JUN 2004		2. REPORT TYPE		3. DATES COVERED 00-00-2004 to 00-00-2004	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Environmental Assessment Repair and Addition of Firing Range, Facility 1404				5a. CONTRACT NUMBER	
				5b. GRANT NUMBER	
				5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER	
6. AUTHOR(S)				5d. PROJECT NUMBER	
				5e. TASK NUMBER	
				5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER	
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) 436th Civil Engineer Squadron (CES/CEV),600 Chevron Ave,Dover AFB,DE,19902				8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)				10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)	
				11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)	
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release; distribution unlimited					
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES					
14. ABSTRACT					
15. SUBJECT TERMS					
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT Same as Report (SAR)	18. NUMBER OF PAGES 19	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON
a. REPORT unclassified	b. ABSTRACT unclassified	c. THIS PAGE unclassified			

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REPAIR AND ADDITION OF FIRING RANGE, FACILITY 1404

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Dover Air Force Base (DAFB) is located in Kent County, Delaware. The base is situated 3.5 miles southeast of the center of Dover, Delaware, the state capital. The base covers approximately 3,902 acres of land area including annexes, easements, and leased property.

Dover AFB has two active airfields. The north-south airfield at Dover AFB divides the main Base into two primary sections. Open space, recreational areas, and limited amounts of industrial uses are located east of the airfield. The land uses west of the airfield and east of U.S. Route 113 are industrial, airfield operations, administrative, community, medical, and some unaccompanied personnel housing. Eagle Heights Military Family House (MFH), temporary lodging quarters, a golf course, and additional unaccompanied personnel housing are located west of U.S. Route 113 and east of St. Jones River. The surrounding areas consist primarily of cropland and wetlands, with the Saint Jones River running adjacent to the southwestern corner of the base.

1.2 PROJECT PURPOSE and NEED

The proposed project identified in the AF Form 813 would repair the firing range facility that has an 11,000 square foot area and add an additional 3,600 square feet. Removing the existing firing range backstop, firing line, control tower, storage area, baffles, abate and properly dispose of contamination will increase safety. The proposed renovation is required for Dover AFB to remove safety concerns and to keep the range operational at current standards. The additional space will also bring the firing range from a 21 point facility to a 28 point facility. Currently the limited space restricts personnel from keeping their firing arms qualification. This addition will alleviate the space shortfalls and will keep personnel's firing arms qualifications current.

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

2.1 NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

The National Environmental Policy Act, commonly known as NEPA, is a Federal statute requiring the identification and analysis of potential environmental impacts of proposed Federal actions before those actions are taken. NEPA established the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) that is charged with the development of implementing regulations and ensuring agency compliance with NEPA. CEQ regulations mandate that all Federal agencies use a systematic interdisciplinary

approach to environmental planning and the evaluation of actions that may affect the environment.

This process evaluates potential environmental consequences associated with a proposed action and considers alternative courses of action. The intent of NEPA is to protect, restore, or enhance the environment through well-informed Federal decisions.

The process for implementing NEPA is codified in Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 1500-1508, *Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act*. CEQ regulations specify the following must be accomplished when preparing an environmental assessment (EA):

- Briefly provide evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) or a finding of no significant impact (FONSI)
- Aid in an agency's compliance with NEPA when an EIS is unnecessary
- Facilitate preparation of an EIS when one is necessary

Air Force Policy Directive (AFPD) 32-70, *Environmental Quality*, states that the U.S. Air Force (USAF) will comply with applicable Federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulations, including NEPA. The USAF's implementing regulation for NEPA is *The Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP)*, 32 CFR Part 989, as amended.

2.2 INTEGRATION OF OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL STATUTES AND REGULATIONS

To comply with NEPA, the planning and decision-making process for actions proposed by Federal agencies involves a study of other relevant environmental statutes and regulations. The NEPA process, however, does not replace procedural or substantive requirements of other environmental statutes and regulations. It addresses them collectively in the form of an EA or EIS, which enables the decision-maker to have a comprehensive view of major environmental issues and requirements associated with the Proposed Action. According to CEQ regulations, the requirements of NEPA must be integrated "with other planning and environmental review procedures required by law or by agency so that all such procedures run concurrently rather than consecutively."

The EA examines potential effects of the Proposed Action and alternatives on seven resource areas including air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geological resources, hazardous materials and waste, safety, and water resources. Four resource areas are omitted from analysis include infrastructure, noise, land use, and socioeconomics and environmental justice. The basis for the omissions is described in section 4.0. The following paragraphs present examples of relevant laws, regulations, and other requirements that are often considered as part of the analysis.

2.2.1 Air Quality

The Clean Air Act (CAA) establishes Federal policy to protect and enhance the quality of the nation's air resources to protect human health and the environment. The CAA requires that adequate steps be implemented to control the release of air pollutants and prevent significant deterioration in air quality. The 1990 amendments to the CAA require Federal agencies to determine the conformity of proposed actions with respect to State Implementation Plans (SIPs) for attainment of air quality goals.

2.2.2 Biological Resources

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) requires Federal agencies that fund, authorize, or implement actions to avoid jeopardizing the continued existence of federally listed threatened or endangered species, or destroying or adversely affecting their critical habitat. Federal agencies must evaluate the effects of their actions through a set of defined procedures, which can include preparation of a Biological Assessment and formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

EO 11990, Protection of Wetlands, requires that Federal agencies provide leadership and take actions to minimize or avoid the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands and to preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial values of wetlands.

The CWA, under Section 404, contains provisions for protection of wetlands and establishes a permitting process for activities having potential effects in wetland areas. Wetlands, riverine, and open water systems are considered waters of the United States and, as such, fall under the regulatory jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

2.2.3 Cultural Resources

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) provides the principal authority used to protect historic properties, establishes the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and defines, in Section 106, the requirements for Federal agencies to consider the effect of an action on properties on or eligible for the NRHP.

Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties (36 CFR 800 [1986]) provides an explicit set of procedures for Federal agencies to meet their obligations under the NHPA, including inventorying of resources and consultation with State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

The Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 ensures that Federal agencies protect and preserve archeological resources on Federal or Native American lands and establishes a permitting system to allow legitimate scientific study of such resources.

EO 13007, Indian Sacred Sites, requires that, to the extent practicable, Federal agencies accommodate access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners and avoid adversely affecting the physical integrity of such sacred sites.

EO 13084, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, requires that each Federal agency shall have an effective process to permit elected officials and other representatives of Indian tribal governments to provide meaningful and timely input in the development of regulatory policies or matters that uniquely affect their communities.

2.2.4 Safety

Air Force Instruction (AFI) 91-301, *Air Force Occupational and Environmental Safety, Fire Protection, and Health (AFOSH) Program*, implements AFD 91-3, *Occupational Safety and Health*, by outlining the AFOSH Program. The purpose of the AFOSH Program is to minimize loss of USAF resources and to protect USAF personnel from occupational deaths, injuries, or illnesses by managing risks. In conjunction with the USAF Mishap Prevention Program (AFI 91-202), these standards ensure all USAF workplaces meet Federal safety and health requirements. This instruction applies to all USAF activities.

2.2.5 Water Resources

The Clean Water Act (CWA) of 1977 (33 United States Code [USC] 1344) and the Water Quality Act of 1987 (33 USC 1251, et seq., as amended) establish Federal policy to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters, and where attainable, to achieve a level of water quality that provides for the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife, and recreation in and on the water.

Executive Order (EO) 11988, *Floodplain Management*, requires Federal agencies to take action to reduce the risk of flood damage; minimize the impacts of floods on human safety, health, and welfare; and restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values served by floodplains. Federal agencies are directed to consider the proximity of their actions to or within floodplains. Where information is unavailable, agencies are encouraged to delineate the extent of floodplains at their site.

Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) establishes goals for and a mechanism for states to control use and development of their coastal zones. CZMA applies to actions on federal lands only when state's coastal zone is affected. CZMA requires that federal agencies be consistent with enforceable policies of state coastal zone management programs when conducting or supporting activities within or outside the coastal zone that affect land use, water use, or natural resources of the coastal zone.

2.2.6 Infrastructure

Infrastructure consists of the systems and physical structures that enable a population in a given area to self sustain. Consideration of infrastructure is applicable to a proposed action or alternative where there may be an issue with respect to local capacities (e.g., utilities, transportation networks, energy) to provide the required support.

2.2.7 Noise

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Part 150, *Airport Noise Compatibility Planning*, provides guidance to measure noise at airports and surrounding areas and determine exposure of individuals to noise that result from the operations of an airport. FAA Part 150 identifies those land uses which are normally compatible with various levels of exposure to noise by individuals. It also provides technical assistance to airport operators, in conjunction with other local, state, and Federal authorities, to prepare and execute appropriate noise compatibility planning and implementation programs (14 CFR 150).

2.2.8 Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice

EO 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, directs Federal agencies to assess the effects of their actions on minority and low-income populations within their region of influence. Agencies are encouraged to include demographic information related to race and income in their analysis of the environmental and economic effects associated with their actions.

3.0 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

3.1 PROPOSED ACTION

DAFB will renovate and expand the over 35 year old small arms range. The lead abatement and range improvements are required to keep the range operational due to safety concerns. This alternative is the only feasible alternative to meet the user demand for the range, to accommodate all of the new training requirements, and to comply with ETL 01-13, Small Arms Range Design and Construction (figure 1).

3.2 ALTERNATIVE ACTION

Alternative actions were initially considered, but were eliminated due to impracticality. Building a new facility is not practical or feasible due to the expensive costs. A new facility would also require an extensive environmental clean-up of the old facility. In addition, with the required set-backs and safety distances, there is insufficient land on Dover AFB to relocate the facility. Therefore, this EA focuses on the proposed action.

3.3 NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE

The no-action alternative would maintain the status quo. This alternative is not recommended due to the inability of the existing antiquated range to meet new requirements.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Section 4.0 describes the environmental and socioeconomic resources and conditions most likely to be affected by the proposed action.

In compliance with NEPA, CEQ guideline, and 32 CFR Part 989, as amended, the description of the affected environment focuses on those resources and conditions potentially subject to impacts. Some environmental resources and conditions that are often analyzed in an EA have been omitted from this analysis. The following details the basis for such exclusions:

- **Infrastructure.** The proposed action or the alternative action would not involve any activities that would contribute to major changes with respect to local capacities (e.g., utilities, transportation networks, energy) to provide the required support. The existing utilities would be utilized. The traffic patterns would not change in MFH. Accordingly, the detailed examination of the infrastructure has been omitted.
- **Noise.** Implementation of the proposed action or the alternative action would not involve permanent alterations to aircraft inventories, operations, or missions. No new permanent ground-based heavy equipment operations would be included in the proposed action or the alternative action. No activity included in the proposed action or the alternative action would result in a situation where residences would be impacted by an increase in present ambient noise levels. Furthermore, noise produced by construction activities associated with the proposed action or the alternative action would be temporary and would not significantly affect sensitive receptors. Accordingly, the detailed examination of noise has been omitted.
- **Land Use.** All activities associated with the proposed action or the alternative action would be consistent with present and foreseeable land use patterns at Dover AFB. Implementation of the proposed action or the alternative action would not alter the existing land use at Dover AFB. The surrounding land is not considered prime farmland. Accordingly, the detailed examination of land use has been omitted.
- **Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice.** The proposed action or the alternative action would not involve any activities that would contribute to changes in socioeconomic resources. There would be no change in the number of personnel assigned to DAFB, therefore there would be no changes in area population or associated changes in demand for housing and services. Accordingly, the detailed

examination of socioeconomics has been omitted.

Environmental Justice addresses the potential for a proposed federal action to cause disproportionate and adverse health effects on minority or low-income populations. Adverse health effects are not expected, therefore minority and low-income population data is not analyzed in this assessment. There would be no environmental justice concerns associated with the proposed action or the alternative action. Accordingly, the detailed examination of environmental justice has been omitted.

4.1 AIR QUALITY

Proposed Action

Dover AFB is an area of severe non-attainment for ozone. The priority air pollutants of concern are nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs). No long-term air quality impacts are expected from the proposed action. The proposed action would generate air pollutant emissions as a result of grading, filling, compacting, and paving operations, but these emissions would be temporary and would not be expected to generate any off-site impacts. Central heating, ventilation, and air conditioning will be fueled by natural gas, thus the air emissions would not impact threshold air requirements. The proposed action would generate VOC emissions as a result of using solvents, paints, thinners, and coatings, but these emissions would be temporary, *de minimis*, and would not be expected to generate any off-site impacts. Therefore, a Clean Air Act amendment section 176(c) conformity determination is not required.

No-Action Alternative

Air quality would not be impacted by the no-action alternative.

4.2 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Proposed Action

After reviewing the 1998 Wetland Survey, it was determined that the proposed project will not impact wetlands or the 100-year floodplain. The proposed action will be on the edge of base fence line just North of state route 9 and east of US route 113 (Figure 1).

According to the Biological/Ecological Inventory, dated 1993, there are no known occurrences of federally listed threatened and endangered animal or plant on Dover AFB.

There is one plant of state concern near the firing range vicinity. The Yellow Passion flower is located south east of facility 1404 on the cemetery base fence line (figure 3).

No-Action Alternative

Rare and endangered species would not be impacted by the no-action alternative.

4.3 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Proposed Action

There are three known cultural resources sites near the firing range vicinity, according to the Cultural Resources Management Plan prepared in 2000. Building 1303 is considered a potential "Cold War" historic site for holding the former SAC Alert. This facility is located northwest of the firing range near the Christmas tree parking apron. Building 1301, a former WWII hanger is classified as historic structure. The hanger is located north east of the firing range and west of the airfield. The John Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church and Cemetery Site is another cultural resource located east of the projected site. The proposed project site will have no impact on associated prehistoric or historic sites. (figure 2)

No-Action Alternative

Cultural resources would not be impacted by the no-action alternative.

4.4 GEOLOGY

Proposed Action

Slopes in the proposed areas are shallow to flat and the proposed action would not cause or create significant changes to the topography of the Dover AFB area.

No-Action Alternative

Topography would not be impacted by the no-action alternative.

4.5 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS/HAZARDOUS WATER

Proposed Action

Hazardous materials will have minimal impact on the renovation of facility 1404. Renovation will require removing lead contaminated wood from the facility. The contaminated wood must be disposed of accordingly at a disposal facility permitted to accept hazardous waste. The hazardous waste disposal is anticipated to be approximately one ton. However, the lead contaminated land is remaining on site and

will not be removed. The groundwater in the area is currently contaminated with minute traces of lead. A new range bullet stopper backstop will reduce the potential of increasing contaminated lead water.

Hazardous materials usage will not be increased.

No-Action Alternative

Hazardous materials would not be impacted by the no-action alternative.

4.6 OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

Proposed Action

The proposed action will increase safety by reducing the ricochet effect of the firing range backstop. The current backstop has achieved maximum capacity for its optimum operation. The backdrop presently in place at the firing range has restricted the range's operation.

No-Action Alternative

Occupational safety and health would not be impacted by the no-action alternative.

4.7 WATER RESOURCES

Proposed Action

The water resources currently have traces of lead contamination. The proposed project will increase impervious surface soil and will require a modification to the existing storm management system. The storm water will also be managed in accordance with EPA design guidelines for firing ranges. A sediment and erosion control plan will be developed and implemented during construction.

No-Action Alternative

No water resources will be impacted by the no-action alternative.

5.0 CONCLUSION

Three alternatives were evaluated with regards to this project. Under the No Action Alternative, the operational status of the range will continue to be restricted due to the ricochet effect of the current backstop. This option is not recommended due to the inability of the existing antiquated range to meet new requirements.

The second option is to build a new firing range facility. A new facility is cost prohibitive and would require an extensive environmental clean-up of the present firing range facility. Adding an additional facility will also include set-backs associated to safety distances, and land availability on Dover AFB.

Option three, which is the proposed action, is to renovate and expand on the existing facility, building 1404. This alternative is the only feasible alternative to meet the user demand for the range, to accommodate all of the new training requirements, and to comply with ETL 01-13, Small Arms Range Design and Construction. Therefore, based on the reasons previously stated and the fact that there are no negative environmental impacts associated with the proposed action, the proposed action is the preferred action.

6.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

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436 CES/CEV
Contribution: Author

7.0 LIST OF CONTACTS

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436 CES/CECP
Purpose of Contact: Proponent

DiSalvo, Lee
436 CES/CEV
Purpose of Contact: Water Information

Deramo, Jo Anne
436 CES/ CEV
Purpose of Contact: ERP Information

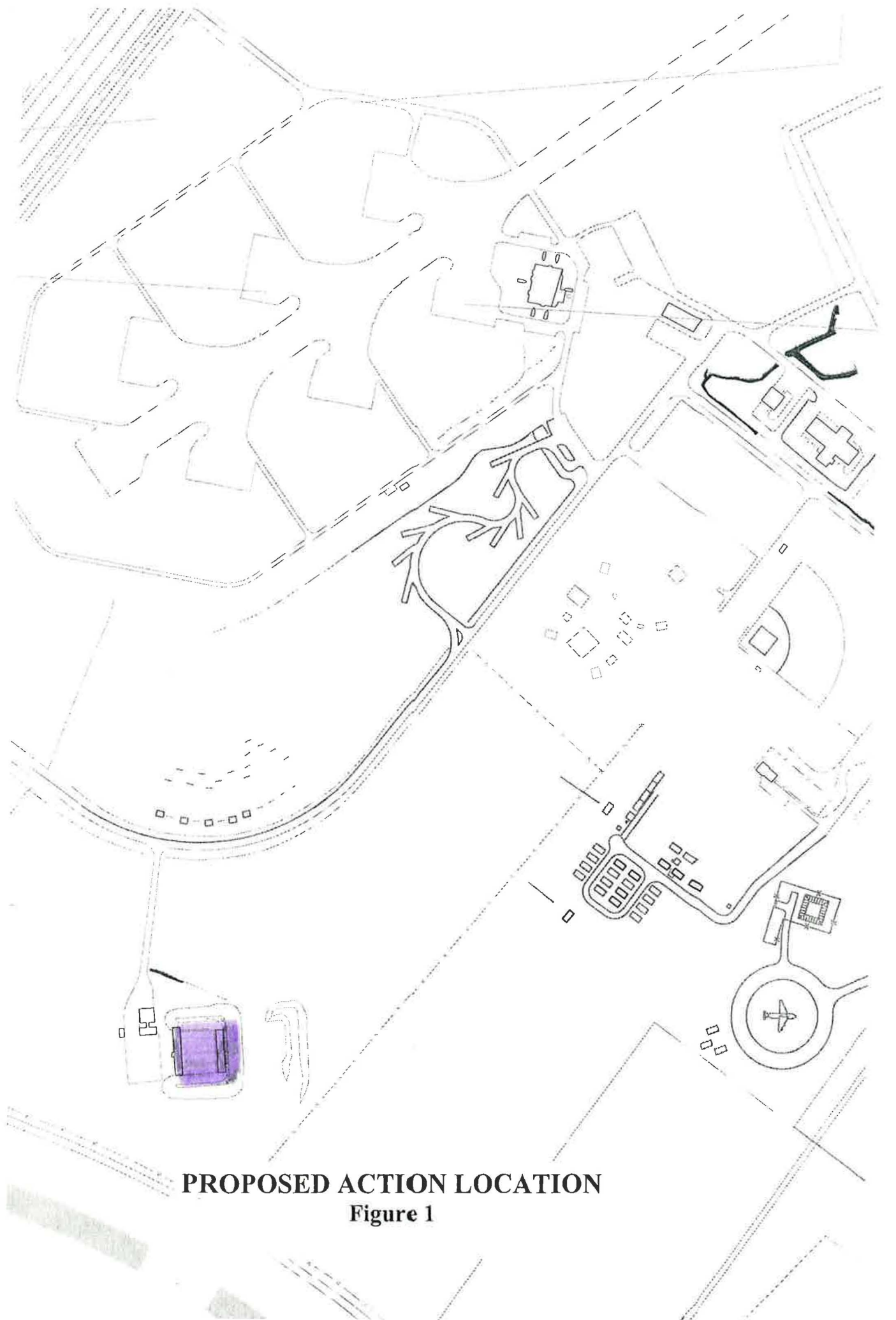
Seip, Steve
436 CES/CEV
Purpose of Contact: Hazardous Waste Information

8.0 REFERENCES

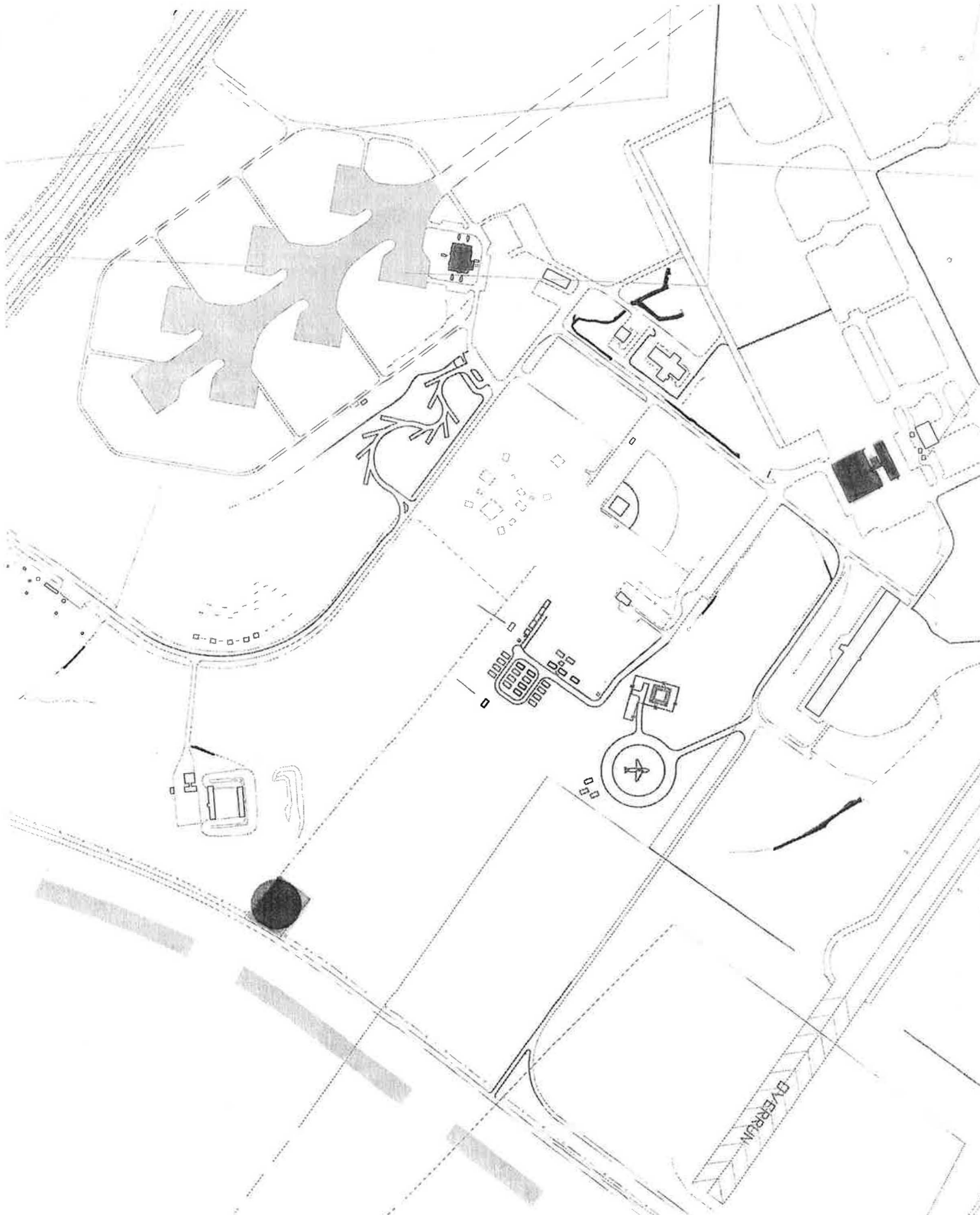
“Dover Air Force Base, Cultural Resources Management Plan”, October 2000
“Biological and Ecological Inventory of Dover Air Force Base, Delaware”,
November 1993

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AFI - Air Force Instruction
AFOSH - Air Force Occupational and Environmental Safety, Fire Protection, and Health
AFPD - Air Force Policy Directive
CAA - Clean Air Act
CEQ - Council on Environmental Quality
CFR - Code of Federal Regulations
CWA - Clean Water Act
CZMA - Coastal Zone Management Act
DAFB – Dover Air Force Base
EA - Environmental Assessment
EIAP - Environmental Impact Analysis Process
EIS - Environmental Impact Statement
EO - Executive Order
ESA - Endangered Species Act
ETL – Electronic Technical Letter
FAA - Federal Aviation Administration
FONSI - Finding of No Significant Impact
MFH - Military Family Housing
NEPA - National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA - National Historic Preservation Act
NOx - Nitrogen Oxide(s)
NRHP - National Register of Historic Places
SHPO - State Historic Preservation Office
SIP - State Implementation Plan
SR - State Route
USC - United States Code
USACE - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USAF - U.S. Air Force
VOC - Volatile Organic Compound

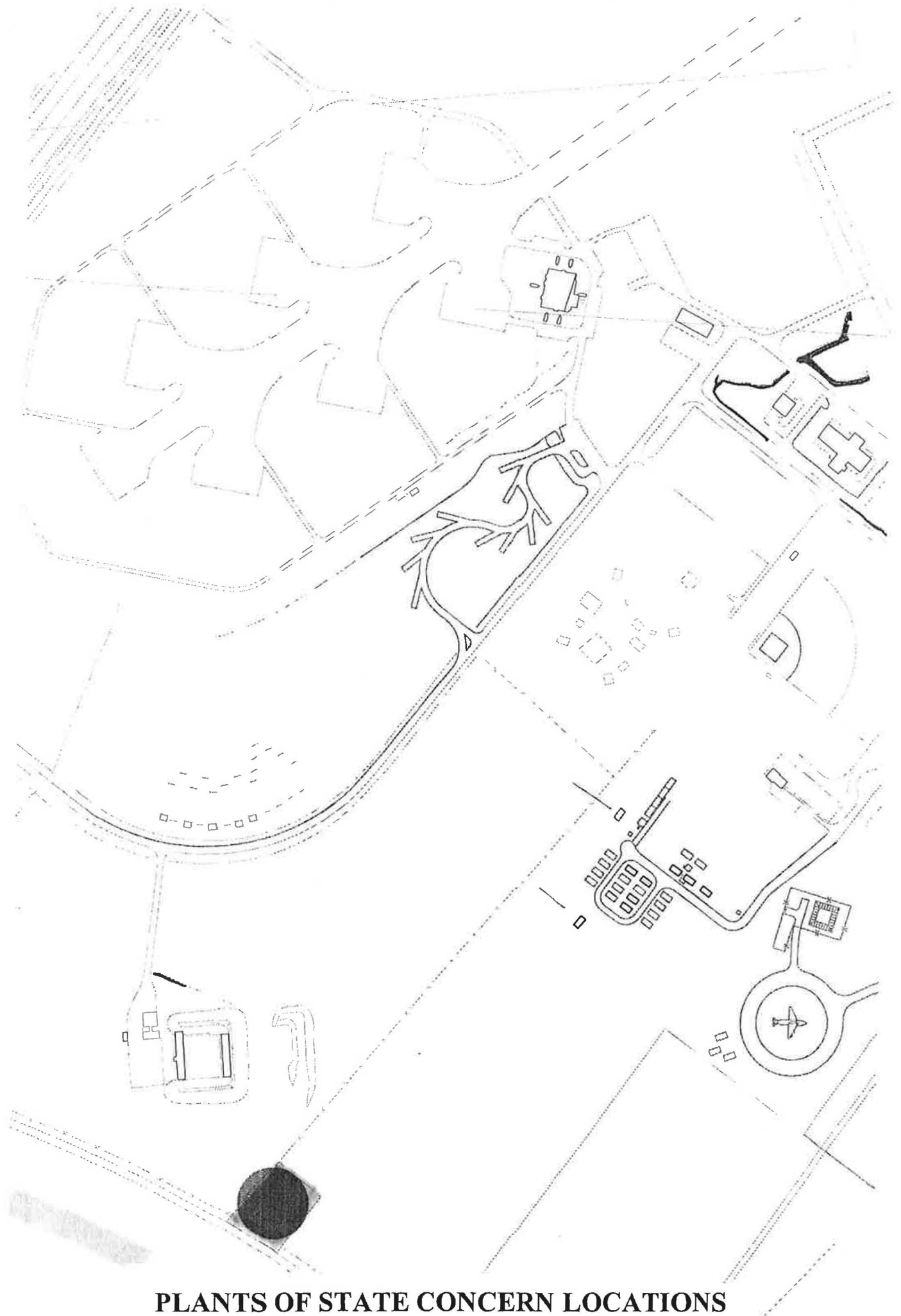


PROPOSED ACTION LOCATION
Figure 1



CULTURAL RESOURCE LOCATIONS

Figure 2



PLANTS OF STATE CONCERN LOCATIONS

Figure 3



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 436TH AIRLIFT WING (AMC)

22 June 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR 436 MSG/CC

FROM: 436 AW/JA

SUBJECT: Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for Repair of Firing Range Facility

1. I have reviewed the FONSI for the firing range repair project and find it to be in compliance with AFI 32-7061 and 32 CFR §989.14 and §989.15. 436 AW/JA approved the Environmental Assessment (EA) associated with this project on 17 May 04. Subsequently, 436 CES/CEV made the EA available for public review for a two week period ending on 5 Jun 04 and received no public comments. The combined EA and FONSI fulfill the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and no Environmental Impact Statement is needed.

2. RECOMMENDATION: Sign the FONSI.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patrick M. Schwomeyer".

PATRICK M. SCHWOMEYER, 1st Lt, USAF
Assistant Staff Judge Advocate

436 AW/SJA

MEMORANDUM FOR 436 MSG/CC

Concur/~~Nonconcur~~

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nancy E. Griffin".

NANCY E. GRIFFIN, Lt Col, USAFR
Acting Staff Judge Advocate

STAFF SUMMARY SHEET

	TO	ACTION	SIGNATURE (Surname), GRADE AND DATE		TO	ACTION	SIGNATURE (Surname), GRADE AND DATE
1	AW/JA	Coord	<i>Shiffin, Lt Col</i> 23 Jun 04	6			
2	MSG/CC	Sign	<i>[Signature]</i>	7			
3	CES/CEV	Action		8			
4				9			
5				10			

SURNAME OF ACTION OFFICER AND GRADE
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SUBJECT

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Repair of Firing Range Facility.

DATE

20040607

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE. To request MSG/CC to sign the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Repair of Firing Range (tab 1).
2. A Request for an Environmental Impact Analysis, AF Form 813, is enclosed (tab 2).
3. An environmental assessment (EA) for the Repair of Firing Range. (tab 3). The EA indicates there are no significant environmental impacts from the proposed action.
4. RECOMMENDATION: MSG/CC sign the enclosed FONSI.

[Signature]
M.A. PERZA
Deputy Base Civil Engineer

- 3 Tabs
1. FONSI, for Repair of Firing Range
 2. AF Form 813
 3. Environmental Assessment and Supporting Documentation



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 436TH AIRLIFT WING (AMC)

17 May 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR 436 MSG/CC

FROM: 436 AW/JA

SUBJECT: FONSI for Repair of Firing Range

1. I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the repair of Dover AFB's firing range. I find both documents to be in compliance with 40 CFR 1501.3 and 1508.9, as implemented by AFI 32-7061, paragraph 3.3. Furthermore, the EA was available for a reasonable amount of time for public comment and no comments were received.

2. **RECOMMENDATION:** Sign the FONSI.

MARC A. JONES, Maj, USAF
Deputy Staff Judge Advocate

1st Ind, 436 AW/JA

MEMORANDUM FOR 436 MSG/CC

Concur/~~Non-concur~~

DONNA MARIE VERCHIO, Lt Col, USAF
Staff Judge Advocate